Recruitment in Defence Production Unit

527. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recruitment to some posts in the Defence Production Unit, Saintala, Orissa had taken place during the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, whether the local candidates have not been considered for any of those posts; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Of the 310 posts filled in 1995-96, 288 have been filled with local candidates sponsored by the employment exchange. The balance 22 were recruited through open advertisements due to non-availability of suitable candidates, as certified by the local employment exchange.

[Translation]

Technical Tests of Agni Missiles

528. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether technical tests of Agni missiles have been completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start production of these missiles; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) Three flight tests of re-entry technology demonstrator AGNI have been completed

(b) and (c). No, Sir AGNI project did not envisage development of missile system

[English]

Defence Production Units in Orissa

529. SHRI K PRADHANI Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to establish some new defence production units in Orissa during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the details of the new defence production units proposed to be established State-wise, during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) (a) Other than completing the ordnance factory at Bolangir there is no proposal to set up any new defence production units in Orissa or elsewhere in the country

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Manufacture of LCA

530. SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to complete the work relating to manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the beginning of 1997;

(b) if so, whether it will be built fully with Indian tchnical knowhow; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) First flight of LCA is scheduled in March 1997. After extensive flight tests, the first production version of LCA is expected to be ready in the year 2002.

(b) and (c). The indigenously designed and developed LCA will be manufactured with selected technological inputs from abroad to cut short time cycle for development to production.

[Translation]

Wastage of River Water

531. PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the river water go wasted at present as they flow down into sea;

(b) the reasons for not giving importance to the scheme formulated earlier to link river Ganga with Cauvery,

(c) the target fixed by the Government to raise ground water level, extend the means of irrigation and to reduce dependence of agriculture on rain,

(d) the funds earmarked for this purpose in the Eighth Five Year Plan and the purpose for which they were earmarked, and

(e) the State-wise details of the funds allocated so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir, Out of 1142 million cubic kilometres of available utilisable water resources, only 606 million cubic kilometres of water is being utilised at present (1994).

(b) The proposal on linking river Ganga with Cauveri was found to be not economically feasible However, studies are in progress on linking of rivers under the National perspective formulated by the Government

(c) and (d). In addition to major and medium projects, irrigated agriculture is being augmented through minor irrigation also. This is through both surface and ground waters. During the 8th Plan, a target for creation of additional irrigation potential of 10.71 million hectares by minor irrigation has been fixed An amount of Rs. 5972.26 crores has been